

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-78 (Cancelled)

79. (New) A fencing system comprising:

a horizontal mounting surface; and

an elongated member comprising fiber cement having fibers, the elongated member having at least a front surface and a back surface, each of the front surface and the back surface having a pattern, wherein the pattern is formed of the same material as the elongated member, wherein the elongated member is constructed as an independent fencing component, not containing any attachments on the front surface or the back surface for attaching the elongated member to the horizontal mounting surface, wherein the elongated member is secured to the horizontal mounting surface only by a fastener passing through the front surface and back surface of the elongated member and into the horizontal mounting surface.

80. (New) The fencing system of Claim 1, wherein the elongated member is cut to size and shaped for use in the fence system prior to curing the fiber cement, wherein the elongated member does not exhibit any substantial fraying of the fibers along the surfaces of the elongated member after curing.

81. (New) The fencing system of Claim 1, wherein the elongated member has at least one surface that has a pre-finish thereon.

82. (New) The fencing system of Claim 1, wherein the elongated member resembles a picket.

83. (New) The fencing system of Claim 1, wherein the elongated member has an upper end, wherein the upper end is formed into a shape selected from the group consisting of square cut, dog-eared, French gothic, scalloped, pointed and saw-toothed.

84. (New) The fencing system of Claim 1, wherein the front surface and back surface of the elongated member has a finish that resembles wood.

85. (New) The fencing system of Claim 1, wherein the front surface and back surface of the elongated member has a finish that resembles masonry.

86. (New) The fencing system of Claim 1, wherein the fiber cement forming the elongated member incorporates a low-density additive.

87. (New) The fencing system of Claim 86, wherein the low-density additive comprises micro spheres.

88. (New) The fencing system of Claim 86, wherein the low-density additive comprises volcanic ash.

89. (New) The fencing system of Claim 1, wherein the fiber cement forming the elongated member comprise moisture resistant cellulose fibers.

90. (New) The fencing system of Claim 1, wherein the horizontal mounting surface has a longitudinal axis, and the elongated member is positioned in a manner such that a longitudinal axis of the elongated member is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the horizontal mounting surface.

91. (New) The fencing system of Claim 1, wherein the mounting surface comprises a rail.